

RETAIL PRICES - June QUARTER, 1946.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for retail prices of all items ("C" Series) for June quarter 1946 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1090, Toowoomba 1101, Rockhampton 1092, Townsville 1129, Bundaberg 1070, and Warwick 1080.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

City.	June Quarter, 1946-Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared with -		
	Year ended June, 1939,	June Quarter 1945.	March Quarter 1946.
Brisbane	26.3	1.7	0.8
Toowoomba	29.4	1.2	0.5
Rockhampton	26.8	0.8	0.6
Townsville	23.8	1.3	0.5
Bundaberg	27.2	1.6	0.8
Warwick	31.4	2.0	0.5

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City.	Food and Groceries.		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items,	
	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on March Qr., 1946,	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on March Qr., 1946.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on March, Qr., 1946.
Brisbane	14.7	0.7	79.7	2.3	19.2	0.1
Toowoomba	24.4	-0.3	76.7	2.4	18.3	-0.1
Rockhampton	13.3	-	78.3	2.0	21.1	-0.3
Townsville	11.2	-0.5	77.9	2.5	18.4	0.2
Bundaberg	14.8	0.4	76.6	2.0	16.5	0.2
Warwick	18.6	0.1	77.5	1.5	21.3	-0.1

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index numbers for food and rent only ("B" Series) for June quarter, 1946 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 933, Toowoomba 952, Rockhampton 916, Townsville 983, Bundaberg 896 and Warwick 900.

From March quarter 1946 to June quarter 1946, the "B" Series Index showed increases in Brisbane, 0.4%, and Bundaberg, 0.4%. Toowoomba decreased 0.2%, and Townsville 0.3%. Rockhampton and Warwick did not change.

The rent index increased in Rockhampton, 0.3%, and Bundaberg, 0.6%, but remained stationary in all other towns.

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Compared with June quarter 1945, the "B" Series index increased in Brisbane, 0.8%, Bundaberg, 0.7%, and Warwick, 1.6%, but decreased in Toowoomba, 0.1%, and Rockhampton, 0.7%. Townsville remained stationary.

The rent index showed no movement in Brisbane and Townsville, but increases were recorded in Toowoomba 0.2%, Rockhampton 0.5%, Bundaberg 1.2% and Warwick 0.5%.

Comparison of Costs in Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts, for the various Queensland cities, required in June quarter, 1946, to purchase the quantity of goods or housing which would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City.	All Items.			Food and Groceries.			Rent (4 and 5 Rooms).			Clothing and Footwear.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brisbane ..	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.
Toowoomba ..	1.	0.	2.	1.	0.	8.	1.	0.	0.	19.	8.	
Rockhampton	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	8.		17.	11.	1.	0.	3.
Townsville	1.	0.	9.	1.	1.	8.	1.	0.	1.	1.	0.	6.
Bundaberg ..		19.	8.	1.	1.	1.		15.	10.		19.	11.
Warwick ..		19.	10.	1.	0.	5.		17.	3.		19.	8.

Comparison of State Basic Wages.

In the following statement a comparison is made between the prevailing basic wage rates for males prescribed by the respective State Industrial Tribunals in the various Capital Cities. The margins between the Brisbane figure and the other figures show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

Capital City.	Price Index Nos. ("C" Series).	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane.	Actual State Basic Wage for Males.			Margin in Favour of Brisbane.
			£.	s.	d.	
Brisbane ..	1090	4. 18. 0.	4.	18.	0.	-
Sydney ..	1165	5. 4. 9.	5.	0.	0.	4. 9.
Melbourne ..	1150	5. 3. 5.	4.	19.	0.	4. 5.
Adelaide ..	1121	5. 0. 9.	4.	14.	0.	6. 9.
Perth ..	1127	5. 1. 4.	5.	2.	1.	- 0. 9. (a)
Hobart ..	1132	5. 1. 9.	4.	16.	0.	5. 9.

(a) Margin in favour of Perth.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX-"C" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY.	Year Ended Dec. 1928	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended June, 1946.	QUARTERS ENDED -				
				June 1945.	September 1945.	December 1945.	March 1946.	June 1946.
Brisbane ..	917	863	1079	1072	1069	1074	1081	1090
Toowoomba ..	906	851	1092	1088	1085	1088	1095	1101
Rockhampton ..	903	861	1084	1083	1077	1080	1086	1092
Townsville ..	1023	912	1119	1115	1109	1114	1123	1129
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	1059	1053	1049	1056	1061	1070
Weighted Average								
Five Cities (a)	915	864	1082	1076	1073	1077	1084	1093
Warwick ..	914	822	1073	1059	1066	1071	1075	1080

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) INDEX-"B" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY.	Year Ended Dec. 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended June, 1946.	QUARTERS ENDED -				
				June 1945	September 1945.	December 1945.	March 1946.	June 1946.
Brisbane ..	901	852	927	926	923	922	929	933
Toowoomba ..	833	821	950	953	947	946	954	952
Rockhampton ..	858	837	915	922	916	911	916	916
Townsville ..	1047	916	980	983	975	976	986	983
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	888	890	884	880	892	896
Weighted Average								
Five Cities (a)	892	851	930	930	927	925	933	935
Warwick ..	841	768	897	886	896	893	900	900

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES-FOOD AND GROCERIES
Brisbane.

Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF -		Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF -	
		March 1946.	June 1946.			March 1946.	June 1946.
		d.	d.			d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.53	5.50	5.50	Oats-flaked	1 lb.	3.57	4.08
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk ..	1 qt.	6.00	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef-Sirloin			
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.93	3.93	Roast ..	1 lb.	8.73	12.50
Jam (Plum) 1½ lb.	8.02	12.61	12.66	Beef-Steak			
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.91	12.91	Rump ..	1 lb.	11.34	17.50
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.37	8.36	Beef-Steak			
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.89	2.98	Chuck ..	1 lb.	5.83	7.90
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.97	6.97	Beef-Rolled			
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.82	19.82	Brisket	1 lb.	5.48	8.10
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.14	15.14	Mutton-Leg	1 lb.	7.75	8.50
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	27.91	27.91	Mutton-Chops			
				Loin ..	1 lb.	7.78	9.00
							9.30